13th Lok Sabha Elections

173. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total expenditure involved in deploying paramilitary and officials for conducting the 13th Lok Sabha Elections;

(b) what was total cost of printing of ballot papers for conducting these elections;

(c) the number of unfair practices reported in the above elections; and

(d) what corrective measures have been taken by the Election Commission?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) According to the information furnished by the Election Commission of India, during elections, the Commission and the officers in charge of managing the elections, like the chief Electoral Officers, Observers, District Election Officers, Returning Officers and Assistant Returning Officers etc, receive a large number of complaints from political parties, contesting candidates and others alleging unfair practices being committed by one or other parties or candidates. Some of these complaints are in writing and some are made over the telephone. It was, therefore, not possible to catalogue all the complaints received at different levels and from various sources. However, all complaints are looked into and the Commission endeavours to take corrective action wherever allegations of unfair practice appears to have some is facts.

High Court Bench in Bhopal

†174. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of State capitals which do not have High Court or any bench thereof, together with the reasons therefor;

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† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether the Central Government are considering any plan to set up a High Court or its bench in every capital of the States (except Union Territories); if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when a bench of High Court is likely to be set in Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh which is the largest State of the country and whether Government would consider this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) to (c) Itanagar, Gandhinagar, Thiruvananthapuram, Bhopal and Bhubaneswar are the State capitals in the country where at present there is no High Court or its Bench. It has been decided that a Bench of Gauhati High Court should be set up at Itanagar after necessary infrastructural facilities are provided by the Government of Arunachal Pradesh.

It is not necessay that the capital of every State should necessarily have a High Court or its Bench. In any case, no complete proposal has been received from the remaining State Governments in consultation with the Chief Justices of the respective High Courts, for establishing Benches of High Courts in the capitals of the States.

Law Commission's recommendation for banning Meat and Vegetable Exports

175. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Law Commission has urged for banning meat and vegetable export as per the news-item which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 12th October, 1999;

(b) if so, the Law Commission's rationale for such a ban; and

(c) what is Government's response to the above?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) The Law Commission, in Chapter III of its 159th Report on "Repeal and Amendment of Laws: Part I" has suggested that it would be appropriate that the Government issues notification prohibiting the exports of vegetables, meat (excluding beef) and fruits altogether. They are of the view that such prohibition would ensure availability